



**Convention on the Elimination
of all Forms of Discrimination
Against Women**

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UNDER ARTICLE 18 OF THE CONVENTION

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Addendum

EGYPT

PART ONE OF THE REPORT

Before describing the actual situation in the Arab Republic of Egypt, from the social, economic, political and legal points of view, with regard to the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women, we begin with some basic data on Egypt:

- System of government: democratic
- Official religion: Islam
- Other religions: Christianity, a Jewish minority
- Population: 45 million, with 49.2 per cent females
- Number of political parties: five
- Ruling party: The Democratic Party
- Number of ministers: 31 ministers, including two women: the Ministers of Social Affairs and Social Insurance.

Over Egypt's thousands of years of advanced civilization, reaching back 7,000 years to the dawn of history, its women have achieved much in their struggle to win an appropriate status.

The historical evolution of the role of women in Egypt

Egyptian women have a glorious history of participation in the country's national struggles. As far back as Pharaonic Egypt, Egyptian women were able to participate with men in all spheres, and even surpassed them at times. History tells us of the firm reign of Queen Hatshepsut, which lasted for dozens of years, during which she created a merchant fleet and a fighting navy and extended her influence eastward beyond Egypt's borders. History also tells us the story of Queen Nefertiti, and of how she stood side by side with her husband, Akhnaton, while he spread the teachings of his religious belief which brought to the world the first instance of worship of a single god. Many other glorious achievements are also related in history books and have been uncovered by research work.

Egyptian women have also consistently played their part in society and have stood beside their menfolk in resisting foreign invasions.

The advent of Islam confirmed and expanded the rights of women, particularly as regards economic independence with full control over their property. Islam also paved the way for women to prove their various abilities, which led to their appearance in a number of professions. Women in Egypt today are in the teaching and medical professions; there are women officers, engineers, accountants and university professors, as well as ambassadors, ministers, journalists and lawyers.

Egyptian women played an effective role in the liberation of the country from imperialism. The great leader of the women's movement for the liberation of the Egyptian woman was the late Hoda Shaarawi, who created Egypt's first women's association on 16 March 1923.

Legal measures taken with regard to the Convention on the
Elimination of Discrimination Against Women

The Convention was signed by Egypt at the World Conference on the United Nations Decade for Women, Copenhagen, 1980. It was ratified by the People's Assembly (Parliament), the highest authority empowered to enact laws, on 18 September 1982.

Validity of the provisions of the Convention before courts of law

The Egyptian Constitution and Egyptian legislation conform in all respects with the provisions of the Convention. The question of the validity of the provisions of the Convention or of referral to them before courts of law does not arise.

PART TWO OF THE REPORT

Constitutional and administrative measures relevant to
provisions of the Convention

1. Equality of men and women in all rights

This is guaranteed by Article 11 of the Constitution, which stipulates that the State guarantees harmony between women's family duties, their activity in society, and their equality with men in the political, social, cultural and economic fields of life, without prejudice to the prescriptions of Islamic religious law (Shari'a). Furthermore, Article 40 stipulates the complete equality of all citizens in all rights and duties, without distinctions of sex, origin, language, religion or belief.

2. Equality in political life

In this respect, Egyptian legislation guarantees women's representation in Parliament, as stipulated by Law 73 of 1956, as amended by Law 41 of 1979, on the exercise of political rights (Article 4): "All males and females who exercise political rights must be registered in the balloting lists". Law 38 of 1972, as amended by Law 21 of 1973 and Law 114 of 1983 (Article 3): "All lists in 31 constituencies must include one female member in addition to the male members assigned to it ...".

This also applies to the composition of the local councils: Local Council Law 43 of 1979, as amended by Law 50 of 1979, gives women a number of seats in the people's assemblies of the governorates, the city councils, district councils, and village councils. The number of seats allocated to women on these councils is usually one or two, in addition to which women have the right to compete with men for the other seats.

Important changes that took place in the structure and membership of the trade unions added about 100,000 female workers to the trade union movement. In the electoral cycle 1983-1987, voting for workers' representatives on company boards resulted in 22 women obtaining seats, while six women won seats in the 1983-1987 electoral cycle on the executive committees of the general trade unions.

Women in Egypt have also attained ministerial posts, and have taken part in planning overall State policy. They have reached leadership positions in many sectors of employment, have been appointed as ambassadors of their country, and have participated in numerous international conferences.

3. Equality in acquiring, retaining and changing citizenship

Article 11 of Law 26 of 1975, on Egyptian citizenship, stipulates that loss of Egyptian citizenship by an Egyptian who has adopted another nationality after having been granted permission to do so shall not entail a similar loss of Egyptian citizenship by his wife, unless she decides to acquire her husband's new nationality according to the laws of his country.

Article 12 stipulates that an Egyptian woman who marries a foreigner shall retain her Egyptian citizenship, unless she desires to acquire her husband's nationality, and expresses such desire at the time of her marriage or during her marriage, and is permitted by the law of her husband's country to acquire its nationality. Nevertheless, she retains her Egyptian citizenship if she declares her desire to do so within one year of acquiring her husband's nationality.

Article 13 stipulates that an Egyptian woman who has lost her citizenship in accordance with Article 11, paragraph 1, and Article 12, paragraph 1 may regain Egyptian citizenship if she so requests, with the approval of the Minister of the Interior, and shall regain Egyptian citizenship upon the termination of her marriage if she is residing in Egypt or if she returns to reside in Egypt, and expresses such a desire.

Article 14 also stipulates that a wife who was an Egyptian citizen and lost that citizenship, as well as a wife of Egyptian origin, acquires this citizenship if it is granted to her husband or by virtue of her marriage to an Egyptian, upon her advising the Minister of the Interior of her desire to do so. The law grants a woman equal rights with men with respect to the nationality of her children in the following cases:

(a) A child born in Egypt of an Egyptian mother and a father of unknown nationality or a stateless father;

(b) A child born in Egypt of an Egyptian mother, whose father is not legally determined;

(c) A child born abroad of an Egyptian mother, whose father is unknown or stateless or whose nationality is unknown, if he chooses Egyptian citizenship within one year of reaching the age of reason.

4. Equality in work

Egyptian women have entered virtually every field of work, although in varying degrees, even including the judiciary, in which they have positions in juvenile courts and in the administrative prosecutor's office. They are also about to enter the police; the first group of female law graduates has enrolled at the Police Academy and will become police officers on graduation. Female law graduates have already been employed in such police work as the morals bureau and the care of juveniles.

Women are employed in the health and educational services, which absorb about 80 per cent of the total number of women in government service. They also occupy a large percentage of posts in scientific research in, for example, the National Research Institute, the Nuclear Energy Authority, the Scientific Research Academy, and other research institutes and centres. Egyptian women are also prominent in industry, both in government enterprises and in the public and private sectors. Their numbers have consistently increased in this field over the past 10 years. For example, the number of women workers at the Cairo Dyeing Company was 55 in 1975, and rose to 281 in 1983. There were only two women workers at the Aboukir Fertilizers and Chemical Industries Company in 1975; by 1983 the number had risen to 74.

Women workers have acceded to leadership and supervisory positions. For example, there were about 70 female workers holding leading positions at the highest administrative level in the industrial sector, in addition to those occupying supervisory positions at the middle management level (head of department - chief of section). In the Nasr Engineering and Refrigeration Company, for instance, there were 11 female workers performing supervisory tasks.

Women receive equal remuneration with men for the same work. They benefit from all job advantages such as allowances and promotion, on an equal footing with their male colleagues.

For the protection of women, they are not employed in certain jobs, for reasons of health or morals or because the work is too hard. Examples are working in bars or gambling clubs, working with blast furnaces, manufacturing explosives and working underground in mines and quarries, etc. The law also stipulates that women may not be employed at night (between 8 p.m. and 7 a.m.) except in certain situations, for jobs and on occasions laid down in a directive from the Minister of State for Manpower. Such jobs include, for example, work in hospitals, sanatoria and other medical centres; in hotels, restaurants, pensions and cafeterias which are under the supervision of the Ministry of Tourism; in theatres, cinemas and similar places, and work in airports and tourist agencies.

The young women of Egypt have opened a door which was previously closed to them, namely that of the vocational training centres. The first group of girl trainees was enrolled in September 1981, in the Turah Centre for Metallurgy and Electricity and the Tanta Vocational Training Centre for Electrical Motor Technicians. Each of these groups was composed of 33 female trainees. There were no signs of any problems during their training course, and training programmes for girls continued. The Department of Productivity and Vocational Training is at present training a number of women chemists to work as instructors in special areas of chemistry.

As a result of the increased numbers of workers in all sectors, a series of laws have been enacted to assist working women in reconciling their family duties with those of their work. The laws concerning workers in government administration, in public authorities and in units of the public sector, have laid down that working women have the right to leave without pay for the purpose of looking after their children, up to a maximum of two years at one time, and on three occasions during their working lives; and either that the administrative authority shall bear both the social security contributions payable by itself and those payable by the woman worker, or that the woman worker shall be granted compensation equal to 25 per cent of the salary to which she is entitled on the starting date of her leave, at her own choice. It was also decided that the woman worker shall be entitled to maternity leave for three months after confinement, on three occasions during her working life. This is fully paid leave, and is not to be included in the ordinary leave entitlement. The administrative authority also recommended that rules be drawn up for work on the basis of half-time work for half-pay.

With regard to the private sector, Law No. 137 of 1981 provided women workers with the protection they needed to reconcile family and work without detriment to the employer's interests. Its provisions include:

- A woman worker who has worked for the same employer for six months is granted the right to 50 days' maternity leave on full pay, including the pre-natal and the post-natal period, on submission of a medical certificate indicating the probable date of confinement. However, the woman worker shall not be entitled to such leave on more than three occasions during her working life. A woman shall not be required to work for 40 days after her

confinement. This care was also extended to the child. Article 155 of this law provides that for 18 months after confinement, a woman who breastfeeds her child is entitled to two breaks of not less than half an hour each for that purpose, in addition to the established work breaks. In addition, she has the right to combine those two periods and they are then calculated as working hours with no consequent reduction in pay.

- A woman worker may take leave without pay for a period not exceeding one year in order to look after her child. Such leave shall be granted three times during her working life, provided that the organization in which she works has at least 50 employees.
- The law requires that an employer who has one or more women workers shall display a copy of the regulations applying to women workers in his place of business.
- Emphasis is placed on the right of women workers to protect and take care of their children and to provide the appropriate conditions for developing their capacities. The law requires an employer with 100 or more women workers in one place either to set up a nursery or to employ one to look after the children. It also stipulates that organizations employing fewer than 100 female workers in one area should implement this obligation as a joint undertaking. These will be supplementary to the nurseries set up by the State to provide care for the children of working and non-working women.

5. Equality in the field of social insurance

The social insurance system guarantees the treatment of women on a fully equal basis with men. Moreover, women are more privileged than men in cases where benefits would be awarded in terms of insurance. These can be detailed as follows:

- A widow combines the pension to which she is entitled after her husband's death with her own pension or income, without any limits;
- A daughter is entitled to a pension after her father's death as long as she remains unmarried. She can regain this entitlement in case of divorce or widowhood;
- A sister is entitled to a pension after her brother's death;
- A mother is entitled to a pension after her son's death.

6. Equality in concluding contracts and administering property

An Egyptian woman enjoys from birth exactly the same legal rights as men. She may have her own independent finances and her own family name. Marriage has no effect on either, since a married woman can retain all her full legal rights and independent finances without any reduction or supervision by her husband. Women themselves can conclude contracts and administer, supervise, enjoy and dispose of their property without their husbands' intervention.

Minimum age for marriage and pregnancy

Egyptian law lays down the minimum age for marriage as 16 for females and 18 for males.

Developments that have taken place and programmes and institutions established since the entry into force of the Convention

1. The General Department for Women's Affairs within the Ministry of Social Affairs was established in 1977, as a government body at national level to formulate policy for the development of Egyptian women, to devise government plans and programmes for the protection of women and their integration in development, to implement development projects for women at the local, regional and national levels and to co-operate with international organizations and authorities concerned with women's affairs.

2. The National Commission for Women in Egypt was established as a higher commission for planning and co-ordination with representatives from all ministries, authorities and national women's societies concerned with the development of women. This Commission is headed by the Minister of Social Affairs, who is a woman.

The Commission formulates policy for the development of women and puts into force the recommendations concerning women issued by international organizations, subject to the conditions of Egyptian society.

3. The National Commission for Women has set up an experimental project for the development of rural women in Upper Egypt in the governorates of Assiout, Sohag, Oena and Asswan, in co-operation with UNICEF, in order to assist women to increase their income and raise their social and economic status.

4. The National Commission for Women has set up a project to serve working women in the governorates of Cairo and Giza, in order to assist women workers in solving their problems and help them to fulfil their multiple roles as mothers, housewives and workers participating with men in the development of Egyptian society.

The project provides semi-prepared meals for working women and helps them in running their household affairs and cleaning their houses by employing home helps. In addition, clothes are manufactured for working women at reduced prices as a form of financial support.

5. The National Commission for Women conducted field research on the situation and needs of Egyptian women. This research is considered an essential scientific basis in formulating and planning policy for the development of women.

6. Family guidance and counselling offices established by the Ministry of Social Affairs, totalling 71 and located in various villages and cities of Egypt, are concerned with resolving family problems brought to their attention. They have been able to solve an average of about 8,500 cases referred to them every year by religious courts, thus preserving family cohesion and stability, and preventing divorce and the break-up of families.

7. The Ministry set up a productive households project, aimed at increasing family income by training a woman, or a member of the family, in certain productive skills, providing raw materials and financial support, and marketing their products.

The Ministry of Social Affairs has earmarked some E£ 3 million for this project since the Convention was signed. About 420,000 girls and women benefited from the project during the period 1980-1983.

8. There have been 246 women's clubs created throughout the country. These provide training in some productive skills, and women's leisure time is utilized in activities that increase household financial resources.

9. The Ministry of Social Affairs has increased the number of child care nurseries to 2,341, of which 176 are for girls. It has also established 25 children's homes to shelter children from 6 to 18 years of age who are deprived of family care. Furthermore, 174 social clubs have been created to occupy the leisure time of children between the ages of 6 and 12.

10. The Ministry of Social Affairs supports 651 family planning centres to help women in birth control.

11. The Ministry of Social Affairs has created 25 institutions throughout the governorates of the Republic to care for girls exposed to delinquency.

12. Mother's Day and Children's Day are celebrated every year on 21 March and 20 November respectively, at the local and national levels.

In the domain of social security and aid to working women and families, the State provides financial aid amounting to £E 3.17 million, from which nearly a million families benefit.

13. In 1982, a public society for the protection of women was established to provide social welfare at the national level.

14. Article 5 of the Convention calls for modification of the social and cultural behaviour patterns of men and women, with a view to eliminating prejudices, customs and other practices based on the idea of the inferiority or superiority of either sex.

With regard to this article, the National Commission for Women gave several interviews to officials of the mass media, in the press, and on radio and television, with a view to correcting erroneous concepts regarding women and recognizing the equality of men and women; radio and television programmes were scheduled at appropriate times to enable women, whether workers or housewives, to watch and listen to them. Likewise, the Ministry of Education reviewed all curricula at various teaching stages, and corrected erroneous concepts regarding women, to place them on an equal footing with men, forbidding the use of any expression representing them as inferior.

With regard to Article 12 of the Convention, concerning health care services, the State has created maternal and child care (MCH) centres, which also provide free public health services at public hospitals, as both men and women equally enjoy full rights to health care.

The State has also created health units in Egyptian rural areas to provide women with health and social care during pregnancy, to treat mothers and protect them against various diseases, to provide them with health care during pregnancy, confinement and the post-natal period, and to spread health awareness. The State has made health insurance services universal for women workers and their families, by offering medical treatment and health care in return for a token payment.

The School Health Department of the Ministry of Health is responsible for health care services in boys' and girls' schools.

Furthermore, in the area of family planning, the State has acted at both local and governmental levels, instituting the Supreme Council for Family Planning in Egypt, together with the General Society for Family Planning and the Future Family Society. These bodies work through family planning centres in Egyptian cities and villages, offering family planning services to Egyptian women. Some 1.54 million women have benefited from these services. The total number of family planning centres set up by the Ministry is 482, and the annual subsidy is about £E 150,000,

apart from financial allocations and grants received from international and foreign organizations. Regarding article 13 of the Convention, the Nasser Social Bank provides services for women, such as collecting alimony for divorced women, together with its other banking services, such as loans, mortgages and other forms of credit.

In connection with the same Article - on the right of women to participate in recreational activities, sports and all aspects of cultural life - the Supreme Council for Youth and Sport in Egypt gives all girls and women full opportunity to join social, sport and cultural clubs and to take part in contests at both the national and international levels. Moreover, the Ministry of Education has introduced physical education as a basic subject for girls at different stages; it has also introduced the training of women in camps so as to prepare them, physically, culturally and socially to become leaders and pioneers.

In the field of education, a remarkable development can be noted in the education of women in Egypt. In 1924, the first girls' secondary school in Egypt was established. Ever since then, the State has continued to take an interest in the education of girls and young women up to university level. By 1983, there were 13,500 primary schools for boys and girls. The number of female students enrolled in Egyptian universities in 1983 was 225,000; the number of women who graduate from a university or higher educational establishment is estimated at 47,000 annually.

In connection with Article 10 of the Convention, Egypt grants the right of education to both men and women. This is laid down in Article 8 of the Egyptian Constitution of 1971: "The State shall ensure equal opportunities to all citizens". Furthermore, Article 18 of the Constitution stipulates the right of both sexes to education and provides that the State shall guarantee this right.

The State has also ensured free education at all levels. This is laid down in Article 20 of the Constitution: "Free education in State educational institutions at different levels".

In terms of public and community services rendered to Egyptian women, under Article 13 of the Convention, the National Commission for Women issued a series of guidebooks and a manual on procedural services for women, to explain the steps to be taken for services and the documents to be submitted. In connection with Article 14 of the Convention, the National Commission for Women was formed to assume the following special tasks:

- (1) To follow up the implementation of national plans for the development of women, and to suggest means of adjustment to social, economic and political changes occurring in Egyptian society;
- (2) To call on all ministries and bodies sharing membership of the Commission to draw up plans and programmes for the development of women;
- (3) To follow up the implementation of such plans and programmes, to examine the results of the follow-up process and propose necessary measures to overcome the difficulties of implementation;
- (4) To propose research work and studies related to the condition of women in various sectors, utilizing research institutions in these studies; the National Commission for Women includes representatives of the following ministries: Foreign Affairs, Social Affairs and Social Insurance, Education, Health, Manpower, Industry, Higher Education, Culture and Information, Agriculture, Justice and Supply.

It also includes representatives from the People's Assembly (Parliament), broadcasting, television, the press, the National Centre for Social and Criminal Research, the General Labour Union, the General Confederation of Associations, some major national societies, trade unions, and some Egyptian experts in development.

The National Commission for Working Women has the following subsidiary committees:

1. The Legal Committee,
2. The International Co-operation Committee,
3. The Research and Conferences Committee,
4. The Planning and Follow-Up Committee,
5. The Information Committee.

These committees are engaged in planning and preparation for the development of women and the provision of assistance to them in overcoming the obstacles that stand in their way.

In the area of women's right to education (Article 10 of the Convention), the proportion of female students is 40 per cent of the total number at the various levels. At university level, female students show more interest than male students in home economics, languages, tourism and hotel management, information (mass media), arts, economics and political science.

In 1982-1983, the proportion of women students enrolled for master's degrees and doctorates was 33.8 per cent of the total number of students.

PART 3 OF THE REPORT

Women in general and technical education

There are three levels in the educational system, starting with basic education and proceeding up to university and higher education.

First level: basic education

This stage consists of primary and preparatory education. At six years of age, children are enrolled for a six-year period of primary education, followed by three years of preparatory education, which is in fact a continuation of the primary phase. The basic education stage is compulsory.

Second level: secondary education

This stage consists of the general secondary education, technical secondary education, and teachers' training colleges.

(a) General secondary education

This is a three-year phase, divided after its first year into arts and science sections. After the second year, the science section is again divided into a science branch and a mathematics branch. The general secondary education phase culminates in a public examination which leads successful candidates to the universities, higher institutes and technical institutes.

(b) Secondary technical education

Most technical schools have a three-year course of study for the training of skilled workers, while others have a five-year study course for the training of technicians. Technical secondary education is divided into three branches: industrial, agricultural and commercial. Students who obtain a grade of at least 75 per cent in the technical secondary education examination may enrol in appropriate colleges at the university level, after passing examinations set by the colleges of their choice.

(c) Teachers' training institutes

The duration of study at teachers' training institutes is five years. Students who obtain a grade of at least 75 per cent in the examination for a teaching diploma may enrol in the colleges of education, in accordance with their field of specialization. Graduates of these institutes become teachers at the primary education level.

Third level: university and higher education

This level is open to students who have obtained the Certificate of General Secondary Education, as well as students with a certificate of technical secondary education, if they fulfil special conditions.

This stage comprises the universities and the higher institutes. The duration ranges from four to six years, depending on the field of study. It also includes technical institutes that offer a two-year course of study in various specializations.

Students are accepted at all these levels without any distinction based on sex, the sole criterion for acceptance being the overall grade they obtain and their preference.

The major basic principles of the Egyptian educational system are:

1. Education at State schools at all levels is free of charge, including university and higher education.
2. Acceptance at the first level is determined by age, while it is based at the other levels purely on competence, without any distinction on the basis of sex.
3. The State provides special education at the first stage, which includes schools for the blind, for the deaf and dumb, for the mentally retarded, and for children suffering from rheumatic and other heart diseases.
4. The State provides meals at schools of the first level in rural areas, and also at schools at the various other levels of education whenever necessary. The State also provides textbooks and copybooks free of charge at the various levels of general and technical education.

First level: basic education

Egypt recently introduced, on a trial basis, a nine-year stage of basic education, consisting of six years of primary education followed by three years of preparatory education.

The objective of this type of education is to teach pupils essential values and principles of conduct, and to provide them with scientific knowledge and experience appropriate to conditions prevailing in the various environments of the

country, i.e. agricultural, industrial, urban and desert, in order to enable those completing this basic stage of education to face life or to proceed to higher levels of education.

Primary level schools are to be found all over the country. In the 1983/84 school year there were a total of 11,802 primary schools distributed throughout Egypt's rural and urban areas, with a total enrolment of 5,349,579 pupils of both sexes.

The percentage of females at the primary education level is lower than that of males, particularly in rural areas. This is due to various social factors related to certain traditions to which rural families adhere. Nevertheless, there has been a great increase in the number of females enrolled at the primary education level since 1952.

In 1953, the total number of females enrolled at the primary education level was 526,110, or 37.7 per cent of the total enrolment. Ten years later, in 1963, the number of females enrolled at the primary education level had risen to about one and a quarter million, or 38.7 per cent of the total enrolment. In 1983/84, the number of females at that level was 2,255,782, or 42.1 per cent of the total enrolment.

However, what is most striking is that in the period between 1953/54 and 1983/84 the increase in the percentage of females enrolled was much higher than that of males, with a 328.6 per cent increase in female enrolment against an increase of 284.1 per cent in male enrolment.

Primary education in Egypt is co-educational. More than half the teachers at this level are female. Pupils of both sexes receive an identical education at this level, without any distinction between males and females. In certain fields of study and activity, pupils are free to choose between agricultural education and home economics. The objective of the home economics courses is to provide girls with knowledge that would be of use to them later on in their lives, such as needlework, art, home management, child rearing and general hygiene.

Preparatory schools are to be found in almost all the towns and villages of Egypt. The total enrolment at this level in 1983/84 was about 2 million.

Females made up about 20 per cent of the total enrolment at this level in 1953, increasing to about 28.4 per cent in 1963/64, then to approximately 34 per cent in 1973/74, and to 42.1 per cent in 1983/84.

It should be noted that the rate of increase in the percentage of female enrolment at this level was far higher than that for male enrolment. Female enrolment increased between 1953/54 and 1983/84 by 929 per cent, whereas male enrolment for the same period increased by only 310.9 per cent.

Second level: secondary education

(a) General secondary education

The first secondary school for girls was established in 1920, in the aftermath of the 1919 revolution. Initially, the duration of study for females at the secondary level was six years, while for males the duration was only five years. Eventually this sixth year was abolished, and the duration of secondary education for both sexes was fixed at five years.

Statistics indicate that the total enrolment - of both sexes - at the secondary level was over half a million in 1983/84. There has been a noticeably steady and significant increase in the number of females enrolled in general secondary schools in Egypt. The total number of females enrolled at this level in 1953/54 was just under 13,000. This figure increased to 39,000 in 1963/64, that is to say a three-fold increase during this period. The number of females enrolled at the secondary level further increased to about 106,000 in 1973/74, then increased yet again to over 200,000 in 1983/84.

(b) Technical secondary education

There has been a very great increase in this type of education in recent years, on the one hand, in response to an overall growth in education and, on the other, with the aim of creating the varied workforce required for the implementation of the country's social and economic plans, and also in order to satisfy the need for a specialized technical workforce in Arab and African countries.

Young Egyptian women have proved their ability and capability by enrolling in all types of technical secondary schools, namely the industrial, commercial and agricultural schools, under both the three-year and the five-year systems.

The enrolment of young women in technical secondary schools was fully encouraged by all the education authorities, and received their full attention. This was to enable women to participate side by side with men in the construction of society.

(i) Industrial technical education

Women enrolled in industrial schools for the first time in 1957, with the establishment of four industrial schools for girls in the governorates of Cairo, Alexandria, Dakahlia and Asyut. The initial female enrolment in these schools was 135. Young women also enrol in technical industrial schools under the five-year system, from which they graduate with training in various appropriate specializations, or as teachers of practical and workshop subjects. The enrolment of females in secondary industrial education has also significantly increased.

In 1973/74 a total of 8,955 female students were enrolled at this level, representing 10.5 per cent of the overall enrolment. This number increased in 1983/1984 to 27,969, representing 12.1 per cent of the overall enrolment. The rate of increase of female student enrolment in the period 1973/74-1983/84 was approximately 122.5 per cent, while the rate of increase for male students during the same period was 274 per cent.

(ii) Commercial technical education

Female students were accepted by the commercial schools for the first time in 1946. Since then, the Ministry of Education has greatly expanded this type of education, and larger numbers of young women have enrolled in these schools. In 1953/54, female students accounted for 11 per cent of the total enrolment in secondary commercial education. This percentage increased in 1963/64 to 28.5 per cent, then to 50.2 per cent in 1973/74, and again to 57.2 per cent in 1983/84, an indication that this type of education is more appropriate to women.

The number of young women enrolled in commercial education during the period 1953/54-1983/84 increased by 51,062.6 per cent, with the number enrolled increasing from 495 in 1953/54 to 252,760 in 1983/84, while male enrolment increased by 4,859.7 per cent only. In other words, the rate of increase in female enrolment was approximately ten times that of male enrolment.

(iii) Agricultural technical education

Women entered this type of education at a later stage than other types of technical education. Firmly believing in the importance of the role played by Egyptian women in agricultural society since the dawn of history, the Ministry of Education decided to accept female students at agricultural secondary schools for the first time in 1975/76, when 6,830 female students were accepted in the first year at this type of school.

In spite of this late beginning, there has been a noticeably steady increase year after year since that date in the number of female students enrolled in this type of education. There were 1,653 female students in 1976/77 and this number had doubled by 1977/78 to reach 3,150, followed by a further increase in 1978/79, which brought the total number of females enrolled in technical agricultural education to 4,744, and this number increased to 13,184 by 1983/84. This latter figure represents 14.8 per cent of the total number of students enrolled in this type of education.

Female students at the agricultural secondary schools are trained side by side with the male students and follow an identical curriculum. These young women have been successful both in theoretical subjects and in practical work, particularly those subjects that are more appropriate to their nature, such as food processing, poultry raising, dairy work, and floriculture.

(iv) Teachers' training institutes

This type of education trains primary school teachers of both sexes, pedagogically qualified to understand the needs and development of children in the primary education stage and to provide them with an appropriate comprehensive education.

The first institute for training female teachers was established in 1909. The graduates of this institute were during the first quarter of this century the pioneers who in later years were to bear the responsibility for the education of girls. They were the first to be sent on study missions outside the country, an event that greatly influenced the education of Egyptian girls. Furthermore, they set an excellent example that led many families to educate their daughters.

Since the early 1950s, the Ministry of Education has pursued a policy of feminizing the teaching staff at the primary level. This necessitated encouraging girls to enter the teachers' training institutes. In 1953/54 the total number of students enrolled at these institutes was 23,636, with the females making up 47.1 per cent of this total. In 1963/64 the total enrolment was 34,704, of whom 43 per cent were female. In 1973/74 the total enrolment was 31,230, of whom 43 per cent were female. Ten years later, in 1983/84, the total enrolment at these institutes had greatly increased and stood at 71,545, with a significant increase in the percentage of female students to 55 per cent of the total enrolment, indicating the interest of young women in this type of education. The rate of increase in female enrolment for the period 1953/54-1983/84 was about 354 per cent, while the rate of increase in male enrolment was only 256.9 per cent.

Third level: women in university and higher education

University and higher education in Egypt goes back to the pre-Christian era. The ancient university of On was a centre of thought and knowledge in ancient Egypt, as was the ancient university of Alexandria. With the advent of Islam, the university of al-Azhar was established in 970 AD, and is today Egypt's oldest university.

The national university was established on 21 December 1908. Consideration was later given to the creation of a State university that would include all the higher schools existent at the time, and this culminated in the issuance of a decree on 21 March 1925 establishing the Egyptian University. In 1940, it was named Fouad I University, then the University of Farouk I was established by Law 32 of 1942, followed by the establishment of the University of Ibrahim Pasha the Great in 1950.

Following the Revolution of 23 July 1952, it was decided to give these universities permanent names that would not be affected by the passage of individuals, but would have firm national ties. A decree was therefore issued in 1953 whereby Fouad I University was renamed Cairo University, and Farouk I University was renamed Alexandria University. In 1954, the University of Ibrahim Pasha the Great was renamed the University of Heliopolis, then later in the same year this was Arabized and became Ain Shams University.

Other universities were established in the following years, beginning usually with the creation of one or two colleges and subsequently developing into full-fledged universities. The first of these new universities was Asiat University, followed by Tanta, Mansuran, Zagazig and Minia universities, then by the universities of the Suez Canal and Helwan. The establishment of this latter university was the inevitable outcome of the development of higher institutions and colleges of the Ministry of Higher Education.

It should be noted that the University of al-Azhar was further developed in 1961, to include education and scientific research in modern sciences alongside the traditional religious, Islamic and Arabic language studies for which it was famous. This university is not co-educational, but has independent colleges offering courses in various fields to female students.

Egypt now has 12 universities with a total of 178 colleges, in addition to the technical, commercial and industrial institutes, and the special higher and intermediate institutes.

University and higher education were available to women from the beginning of this century. Two years after the opening of the national university in 1909, young women were given the opportunity to enrol as auditors in a number of sections of the Faculty of Arts. University studies available to female students were limited at that time to psychology, ethics, education and hygiene. The situation progressively developed, and increasing numbers of young women continued to enrol.

A number of Egyptian women taught during that period, such as Labiba Hasnim, who lectured on education, Nabawiyya Mousa, who lectured on women, and Malak Hefni Nassif, who delivered lectures on women's rights and duties and the position of Islam with regard to these rights and duties.

In 1929, only 17 women were enrolled as regular students at the university.

During the ensuing half century, Egyptian women forged ahead with determination and excellence, and by 1983/84 about a quarter of a million young women were enrolled in Egypt's universities.

The enrolment of women in the colleges of arts, law, science and medicine appeared to be quite natural, as society considered that such fields were compatible with woman's nature. This was why the enrolment of women in other faculties was somewhat delayed. Women enrolled in the faculty of dentistry for the first time in 1932, in the faculty of commerce in 1935, and in the faculty of

pharmacy in 1936. It was not until 1945 that female students began to enrol in other faculties. The first Egyptian woman enrolled in the faculty of engineering in 1945, then 16 female students enrolled in the faculty of agriculture in 1946, followed by three who enrolled in the faculty of veterinary medicine in 1947. The college of Dar al-Ulum accepted a number of female students in 1953.

In application of the principle of equal opportunity for all Egyptians of both sexes, and pursuant to the decision to provide free education for all, the only criteria for acceptance at a university are the overall grades obtained by the student in the General Secondary Certificate examination and the student's choice of enrolment in a particular faculty, without any distinction on the basis of sex.

The women's teachers' training institute was established in 1933, and was the forerunner of others which were established between that year and 1952. The objective behind the creation of these institutes was the desire of the State to improve the quality of female teachers at girls' primary and secondary schools, and also to train specialized female kindergarten teachers.

A higher institute of social service for girls was created with the aim of training social workers. As some families did not wish their daughters to mix with young men, the only alternative was to provide them with a special type of university education, and this led to the establishment by the State of the Girls' College in 1950, which later became one of the faculties of the University of Ain Shams. Similarly, an Islamic girls' college was established at al-Azhar University. This provided women with an opportunity to enter a field of study at the higher education level which had hitherto been closed to them, namely religious education. Female students enrolled in this college follow the same course of study as their male colleagues at the University of al-Azhar.

There has been a steady and continuous increase in the number of female students enrolled at the university level. The number of female students enrolled at the faculties of arts increased from 902 in 1951/52 to 32,638 in 1983/84. The number of female students enrolled in the faculties of law increased from 316 in 1951/52 to 18,306 in 1983/84.

The faculties of commerce have been increasingly popular with female students in recent years. The enrolment of female students at these colleges rose from 248 in 1951/52 to 45,631 in 1983/84.

The number of female students enrolled in the faculties of science increased from 194 in 1951/52 to 6,618 in 1983/84.

There was also a significant development in the number enrolled in the faculties of medicine. In 1951/52 561 female students were enrolled in these faculties, and by 1983/84 the enrolment had increased to 12,788.

Only 64 female students were enrolled in the faculties of pharmacy in 1951/52, but this number rose to 3,623 by 1983/84.

In 1951/52 only nine female students were enrolled in the faculties of engineering, while 6,052 were enrolled by 1983/84.

In 1951/52 only 80 female students were enrolled in the faculties of agriculture, but the figure was 10,695 by 1983/84.

The number of female students enrolled in the faculties of veterinary medicine significantly increased from 22 in 1951/52 to 1,625 in 1983/84.

There has also been a great increase in the number of female students enrolled at the College of Dar al-Ulum. The total enrolment at this college in 1983/84 was 8,659, of whom 3,392, or 39.1 per cent were female. The total number of students enrolled at the College of Languages in 1983/84 was 1,726, of whom 1,138 or 66 per cent were female. Female students also outnumber their male colleagues at the Faculty of Communication, where they represent about 56.5 per cent of the total enrolment, and at the faculties of Tourism and Hotels, Arts, Education, and Home Economics.

The following table gives a statistical comparison of the development of the number of female and male students at the universities for the period 1951/52-1983/84.

Comparative table showing the progression of the percentage of females enrolled in Egyptian universities

Academic year	Theoretical colleges			Practical colleges			Total		
	Females	Total	%	Females	Total	%	Females	Total	%
1951/52	1 466	19 040	7.7	938	15 501	6.1	2 404	34 541	
1970/71	25 162	68 229	39.9	16 602	77 494	21.4	41 764	145 723	
1983/84	142 626	386 202	37	50 720	182 439	28	193 346	568 641	
% of increase	9 728%	2 028%		5 407%	1 176%		8 043%	1 646%	

An analysis of the data given in the above table indicates that there was an 8,043 per cent increase in the number of female students between 1951/52 and 1983/84.

These figures also show that female students are attracted in large numbers to all types of university education, and that the number of female students enrolled in theoretical colleges exceeds their enrolment in the practical ones. Female enrolment represented 37 per cent of the total enrolment in the theoretical colleges in 1983/84, whereas it was 28 per cent of the total enrolment in the practical colleges in the same period.

In addition to providing free education at all levels, the State also provides students (of both sexes) with many services that help them to pursue their university studies. Needy students also receive assistance to help them overcome any problems that would adversely affect their studies.

The State also provides stipends to outstanding students of both sexes enrolled in all colleges, as an incentive to them to maintain their excellence. In 1984, the State allocated £E 3.5 million, to be shared among about 45,000 students of both sexes.

Technical institutes

These institutes were established in 1956 as vocational training centres, to provide holders of the General Certificate of Secondary Education with a technical training compatible with modern developments throughout the world. Consideration

was then given to developing these centres as regards the type of training provided, its duration and the curricula offered. They were first called institutes for the training of technicians, then technical institutes. After completion of a two-year course of study, graduates obtain a diploma from a technical commercial or industrial institute, depending upon their field of specialization. Outstanding graduates may enrol at a university. There are 16 industrial institutes and 17 commercial ones.

Young Egyptian women have been attracted by this type of education, particularly by the commercial institutes, owing to the compatibility of this field of specialization with woman's nature. In 1983/84, there was a total of about 19,500 female students enrolled in the commercial institutes, representing 38.2 per cent of the total enrolment. The interest shown by female students in the industrial institutes is still limited, however. In 1963/64 a total of only 806 female students were enrolled in this type of higher education, representing 5.6 per cent of the total enrolment.

Egyptian women and the problem of illiteracy

According to the 1947 census, the last held before the Revolution of 23 July 1952, approximately 75 per cent of the population were illiterate. The illiteracy rates were 84 per cent for females and 65 per cent for males.

By 1960, the illiteracy rate for males had dropped to 56 per cent, whereas that for females had decreased only slightly to 83 per cent, in the same year.

There was, however, a noticeable decline in the illiteracy rate after 1975. The 1976 census - the latest official census held in Egypt - showed that the illiteracy rate for females had dropped from 84 per cent to 70 per cent, while that for males had declined from 57 per cent to 43 per cent. This was due primarily to the great expansion in primary education following the Revolution.

Intensified efforts, in which numerous ministries and government and private agencies are co-operating, are now being undertaken in Egypt with the objective of overcoming the problem of illiteracy on the basis of an advanced concept that is not limited to the eradication of illiteracy in the sense of reading or writing illiteracy, but that goes beyond it to the eradication of functional illiteracy through effective adult education curricula closely related to the real educational needs of woman and related to the performance of her important functions as a mother, housewife, citizen and worker.

The Ministries of Education, Culture, Information, Social Affairs, Manpower, Agriculture, Interior, Defence, Wakfs (charitable endowments), al-Azhar Affairs and local government all collaborate in these efforts. The Egyptian universities, trade unions, the general Egyptian Trade Unions Federation and charitable organizations also take part in this work. The problem of illiteracy is at present being addressed in Egypt through an approach that involves the mobilization of all efforts and concentration on the problem in order to solve it in the shortest possible time.

PART 4 OF THE REPORT

Egyptian women and labour

Egyptian women have always worked alongside men in the fields. Egypt's rural society, which is conservative, has always fully accepted women's participation in work and their performance of the most strenuous agricultural operations, and has in fact encouraged this participation. This was due to recognition by the rural society that prosperity could only be achieved through the common work of men and

women, considering that it would be unacceptable for half of the available human resources to remain idle while the other half bore the entire burden of the overall development effort. This rural society never saw any conflict between the employment of rural women and ingrained spiritual values and conservative traditions. It was always able to preserve these values and traditions, while women continued to participate extensively in various agricultural work and industries, as well as marketing of products and produce.

Later, Egyptian women began to work in industry, sharing with men the task of advancing industrial development. Women proved their excellence and capability in mastering various kinds of work in this domain, a fact which is highly appreciated at the supervisory levels of most factories in which women are employed.

Statistics indicate a continuing increase of the participation of Egyptian women in all types of industries and crafts, and a great increase in the number of women employed in these fields. It should be noted that Egyptian women work alongside men in all trades and crafts without exception, including the spinning and weaving and garment industries, the chemicals and basic metals and mining industries, as well as the petroleum, military production, building and construction materials industries, etc. Egyptian women have therefore been able to prove on a practical level the invalidity of the claim that their feminine nature made them unable to undertake strenuous work.

Statistics, an objective indicator of development, show that there are close to 2 million working women in Egypt, representing about 15 per cent of the total workforce in the public and private sectors. This number is constantly increasing, at a rate of approximately 20,000 per year. This figure does not include women employed in agriculture, who participate with the male members of their families in all cultivation operations. The number of women in this category has significantly increased, probably as a result of the great changes taking place in our rural societies. Large numbers of men, many of whom are skilled and experienced farmers, have migrated to seek employment outside the country.

Egyptian women have not halted at these levels of employment, but have ascended to leadership and supervisory positions in government and public sector agencies and organizations. Statistics for 1980/81 indicate that the number of women occupying high-level civil service posts (first under-secretary, under-secretary, director-general) reached 81 in 1980, from a mere four in 1961. In the public sector, 91 women occupied high-ranking positions in 1981. In this connection, it should be noted that this sector was only recently established, by comparison with the government sector.

Egyptian women continued to advance and to fulfill their identity and establish themselves. They occupied ministerial posts, and became under-secretaries, ambassadors, consuls, deans of colleges and heads of research centres.

At the middle-management level, which is in fact the foundation of executive leadership, figures for 1980/81 show that 9,530 women occupied positions at this level in the government service, and 8,536 in the public sector. These numbers have undoubtedly greatly increased during the last four years.

Egyptian women have demonstrated an excellent degree of competence in the various high-level political and leadership positions they occupy, as well as those at the middle-management level. By persevering and persisting in their struggle, Egyptian women have been able to reach decision-making and policy-formulation positions, as well as business management positions. They have occupied leadership posts, thereby contributing effectively to the construction of modern Egyptian society and to the achievement of the country's overall social and economic development objectives.

Women's participation in the workforce in the government and public sectors in Egypt:

Breakdown of government and public sector employees in Egypt on 1 January 1984

	Total employees	Number of females	% of females
Administration	377 308	73 609	19.5
Local government	1 475 840	422 752	28.6
Public service agencies	205 510	50 375	24.5
Public economic agencies	346 676	64 956	18.7
Total of government sector (1)	2 405 335	611 692	25.4
Public sector (2)	1 287 308	143 990	11.2
Total of sectors (1) and (2)	3 692 642	755 682	<u>Average</u> 20.46

Although the above table does not include personnel in special salary scale categories (totalling 611,313), the employment structure and the position of Egyptian women in this huge administrative and production system are evident. The following facts may therefore be highlighted:

1. The highest percentage of females is to be found in the various local government units, where they constitute about 28.6 per cent of the total number of employees. This phenomenon is due to the concentration of women in the departments of education, health, religious affairs and social affairs (over 52.5 per cent in these three sectors).

2. The public service agencies are next, with women making up 24.5 per cent of the total workforce, followed by the administration with 19.5 per cent, and finally the public economic agencies with 18.7 per cent.

3. Overall, more than 611,000 women are in government employment - excluding the public sector - representing 25.4 per cent of the total number of government employees.

The following table gives a clear indication of the number of women in higher positions:

Women in high-ranking posts in the government and public sectors on 1 January 1984

Grade	Government sector					Public sector (2)	Grand total (1) + (2)
	Administration	Local govt.	Service agencies	Economic agencies	Total (1)		
Superior	-	-	-	2	2	-	2
Senior	10	-	2	17	29	21	50
Director-General	109	6	26	86	227	187	414
Total	119	6	28	105	258	208	466

It should be noted that two women occupy posts at the superior grade level (First Under-Secretary), both in the Radio and Television Union, that is 0.3 per cent of the total number of persons in this grade at the national level.

At the senior grade level, there are 50 women, representing only two per cent of the total number of officials at this grade in Egypt in 1984. The number is higher at the Director-General level, 414 women or 5.9 per cent of the total number of persons in this grade in the government and public sectors.

Breakdown by sex of government and public sector employees for the period 1981-1984

Years	Jan. 1981		1982		1983		1984	
Sector	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Administration	254 436	42 001	172 024	61 086	297 869	73 555	303 699	73 609
Local government	904 455	208 153	882 467	315 614	883 129	327 910	1053 088	422 752
Public agencies	388 654	70 382	419 331	95 843	421 450	104 110	436 855	115 331
Public sector	1083 566	115 536	1140 859	131 124	1135 731	138 752	1143 318	143 990
Total	2621 111	443 072	2711 701	603 677	2738 179	644 327	3926 960	755 682

Percentile breakdown by sex of job categories in the government
and private sectors on 1 January 1984

Job categories	Total govt. sector			Total public sector			Grand total		
	M %	F %	Total	M %	F %	Total	M %	F %	Total
Higher positions	93.6	6.4	100	96.6	3.4	100	95.4	4.6	100
Specialist posts	70.3	29.7	100	82.1	17.9	100	82.8	27.2	100
Technical posts	72.5	27.5	100	91.9	8.1	100	77.6	22.4	100
Office jobs	61.2	38.8	100	69.8	30.2	100	62.9	37.1	100
Vocational jobs	91.9	8.1	100	92.3	7.7	100	92.2	7.8	100
Supporting services	84.8	15.2	100	96.8	3.2	100	87	13	100
Non-defined jobs	80.8	19.2	100	91.2	8.8	100	86.4	13.6	100

Percentile breakdown of females in public service employment
categories on 1 January 1984

Sector	Govt. sector	Public sector	Grand total
Job category	%	%	%
Higher positions	00.04	00.02	00.06
Specialist posts	24.3	20.1	23.8
Technical posts	29.2	15.9	26.9
Office jobs	30.9	31	30.9
Vocational jobs	3.7	27.1	7.5
Supporting services	11.2	12.8	9.9
Non-defined jobs	00.7	2	00.9

Numerical development of female public sector
employees for the period 1981-1984

Sector	Years				Percentile development of female employees Base year 1981		
	1981	1982	1983	1984	1982%	1983%	1984%
Foodstuffs industry	7 446	7 760	9 277	10 446	104.22	124.59	140.29
Spinning, weaving, garments	28 990	34 635	34 213	35 254	119.47	118.02	121.61
Chemical industries	3 582	4 070	3 850	4 194	113.62	107.48	117.09
Basic metal industries	7 103	7 712	7 984	8 311	108.57	112.40	117.01
Mining	933	1 149	1 271	1 377	123.15	136.23	147.59
Petroleum	1 530	1 783	2 134	2 253	116.54	139.48	147.25
Military production	2 795	3 750	3 911	4 378	98.81	103.06	115.36
Electricity	2 949	3 681	4 636	4 393	124.82	157.21	148.97
Banking	7 028	9 153	9 092	9 100	130.24	129.37	129.48
Foreign trade	2 696	4 284	3 546	3 757	115.91	95.94	263.99
Cotton	1 270	1 717	1 756	1 716	135.20	138.27	135.12
Commercial insurance	2 693	2 992	2 869	3 161	111.10	106.54	117.38
Supply and internal distribution	15 113	16 958	18 539	20 115	112.21	122.67	133.10
Internal transport	3 232	3 286	3 575	3 582	101.67	110.61	110.83
Maritime transport	2 308	2 499	2 466	2 703	108.28	106.85	117.11
Housing and development	1 750	1 284	1 349	1 347	73.37	77.09	76.97
Construction and construction materials	3 894	4 697	7 574	8 541	120.62	194.62	219.36
Agriculture and irrigation	1 204	1 501	1 398	1 267	124.67	116.11	105.23
Animal production	1 634	1 519	2 336	2 698	92.96	142.96	165.12

Sector	Years				Percentile development of female employees Base year 1981		
	1981	1982	1983	1984	1982%	1983%	1984%
Agricultural credit and co-operatives	1 993	2 510	2 263	2 425	125.94	113.55	121.68
Tourism and air transport	3 197	3 425	3 381	1 691	107.13	105.76	52.89
Medicine	9 657	10 087	10 505	10 827	104.45	108.78	112.12
Printing, paper, publishing	312	342	370	Not indicated	109.94	118.59	124.63
Culture and information	144	170	300	293	118.06	208.33	203.47
Communications	83	159	157	161	191.57	189.16	193.98
Total	215 536	131 124	138 752	143 990	113.49	120.09	124.63

Egyptian women employed in education

The highest percentage of female employees is to be found in the education and health services, in which they represent 80 per cent of the total number of female employees in the government sector.

The development of the percentage of female employees at the various levels of the education sector is as follows:

Primary education:

From 16 per cent in 1951/52 to 37.6 per cent in 1961/62, then to 46.9 per cent in 1983/84, with a total of over 80,000 women teachers.

Preparatory education:

From 20 per cent in 1961/62 to 38.6 per cent in 1983/84. There are at present more than 30,000 women teachers at this level.

Teacher training institutes:

From 33 per cent in 1951/52 to 44 per cent in 1983/84. The number of women teachers at this level now exceeds 2,500.

General and technical secondary education:

There were about 21,000 women teachers at this level in 1983/84. It is worth noting that there were approximately 37,000 women teachers in the general and technical secondary schools in 1961/62, or 32.3 per cent of the total teaching staff. Their number continued to increase, and reached about 134,000 in 1983/84, or 40.3 per cent of the total teaching staff.

These figures demonstrate that although women's breakthrough in the teaching profession was recent, it has been extensive and significant. This bears out the fact that whenever constraints and obstacles facing women in education are removed, ways are opened up before them to serve their society and to effectively participate in its development and progress.

In 1963/64, 7,511 women occupied academic and leadership positions in the universities, representing 28 per cent of the teaching staff, which totalled 27,000, distributed as follows:

Post	No. of females	Total	Percentage
Professor	399	3 000	13.3
Assistant professor	577	2 774	20.8
Lecturer	1 356	5 449	24.9
Assistant lecturer	2 208	7 477	29.5
Demonstrator	2 979	8 124	36.6
Total	7 511	26 824	28

Women held a considerable number of teaching posts in the faculties of medicine, science and the arts, a natural state of affairs in view of their long association with these faculties.

Women also occupy the position of dean in a number of colleges.

Women have also reached supervisory and senior administrative positions in this field. There are women vice-directors of schools, head-mistresses, and directresses at various educational levels, as well as a woman director-general. There have also been a number of women assistant secretaries in the Ministries of Education and Higher Education.

As regards study missions and travel abroad on scientific assignments, Egyptian women have been prominent in all study missions abroad for the purpose of obtaining a Master's Degree or a Ph.D. Women also participate in scientific missions despatched abroad by Egypt to study new developments in various scientific fields and their applications.

Percentage of females on study leave,
missions and scientific assignments

Year	Study leave	Missions	Scientific assignments
1965	14.9%	11%	-
1975	-	20.7%	11.3%
1985	14.9%	15.5%	10.8%

Egyptian women and scientific research

Egyptian women participate in an effective manner alongside men in the various fields of scientific research. The following is a brief survey of the status of Egyptian women in some of the most important specialized research agencies, centres and institutes:

1. The National Research Centre

This Centre was established in the mid-1950s as a multipurpose research institute, with departments concerned with research in physics, chemistry and biology, as well as a number of areas in agriculture and engineering. It is one of the largest research institutes in Egypt and the Middle East.

At the end of 1981, a total of 1,269 persons were employed by the Institute, including 477 women, or 39 per cent of the total.

2. The Nuclear Energy Authority

This authority was also established in the mid-1950s. Women account for 25 per cent of the total staff.

3. The Institute of Oceanography and Fisheries

Women did not start participating in research activities at this Institute until the early 1970s, and now constitute about 22 per cent of the total staff.

4. The Petroleum Research Institute

This Institute was established in 1974. It has 60 female research workers, representing 37.7 per cent of the total number of research workers of both sexes (219).

5. The Agricultural Research Centre

This Centre includes 11 specialized research institutes, in which women represent close to 25 per cent of the total number of research workers.

In addition to the above-cited examples, there is a high proportion of Egyptian women in many other research institutes and centres, mainly:

- The Hydraulics Research Institute affiliated to the Ministry of Irrigation;
- The Health Research Institute, the National Drug Control and Research Authority, and the General Egyptian Authority for Biological Products and Vaccines, all of which are affiliated to the Ministry of Health and with the health services;
- The General Egyptian Geological Survey and Mining Projects Authority, the Nuclear Materials Authority, and the Centre for the Development of Industrial Design, all of which are research centres connected with the activities of the Ministry of Industry and Mineral Resources;
- The National Planning Institute, the Centre for Population Research and Studies, and the National Computer Institute, which are connected with the activities of the Ministry of Planning and the Central Agency for Mobilization and Statistics;
- The National Institute for Social and Criminological Research;
- The Housing and Urban Planning Research Centre, whose research activities are related to the work of the Ministry of Housing;
- The Telecommunications Research Centre, whose work is related to Ministry of Communications activities;
- The National Education Research Institute, whose research and studies are connected with the Ministry of Education;
- The Academy of Scientific Research and Technology, affiliated to the Ministry of Scientific Research. This is the main national institution concerned with planning scientific research policy and promoting its elements, as well as identifying national priority research plans and projects, and supporting and financing them;

The Academy of Scientific Research and Technology undertook in collaboration with UNESCO a national survey of institutions, authorities and units engaged in scientific and technological activities in Egypt. A report, endorsed by UNESCO, was prepared in 1984 on this survey, which indicated that women played an effective role in these activities, as detailed below:

First: The total number of scientists and technical and support personnel engaged in scientific and technological activities was 92,887, including 29,492 women, or 32 per cent of the overall figure.

The breakdown was as follows:

Scientists: 40,977, including 11,926 women (29.1 per cent);

Technical personnel: 12,306, including 3,967 women (32.2 per cent);

Support personnel: 39,005, including 13,599 women (35 per cent).

Second: The total number of scientists and technical and support personnel engaged in scientific and technological activities, by executing sector, was as follows:

Production sector: 17,771, including 3,768 women (21 per cent);

Higher education sector: 66,182, including 22,032 women (33.3 per cent);

Public services sector: 8,335, including 3,782 women (45.4 per cent).

Third: The total number of scientists and technical and support personnel engaged in scientific and technological activities, by activity, was as follows:

Scientific research and development: 90,919, including 28,939 women (31.9 per cent);

Teaching and training: 44,162, including 22,045 women (50 per cent);

Scientific services: 1,928, including 623 women (32.3 per cent).

Note: The breakdown by activity (in the three activities) does not match the total number of persons engaged in scientific and technological activities. The reason is that a number of these persons are involved in two areas simultaneously, i.e. university personnel who are involved in both research and development and teaching and training.

Fourth: Scientists and technicians engaged in scientific and technological activities are classified as follows, by qualification:

Ph.D.: 14,812, including 3,034 women (20.48 per cent);

M.Sc.: 10,339, including 3,083 women (29.82 per cent);

B.Sc. or B.A.: 15,826, including 5,809 women (36.71 per cent);

Intermediate or above intermediate qualifications (technicians): 12,306, including 3,987 women (32.24 per cent).

Fifth: Breakdown of scientists engaged in scientific and technological activities, by field of specialization:

Physics: 9,787, including 3,060 women (31.26 per cent);

Engineering and technology: 6,931, including 1,466 women (21.15 per cent);

Medical science: 8,463, including 3,122 women (36.89 per cent);

Agricultural science: 6,000, including 1,244 women (20.73 per cent);

Sociology and humanities: 9,796, including 3,034 women (30.97 per cent).

Sixth: Statistical indicators:

1. Number of women scientists, technicians and support personnel engaged in scientific and technological activities in Egypt: 674.5 per million inhabitants.
2. Women scientists engaged in scientific and technological activities: 271.01 per million inhabitants.
3. Women scientists engaged in scientific research and development activities: 261.48 per million inhabitants.

Participation of Egyptian women in scientific activities
at the local and international levels

Egyptian women also participate in an effective manner in other scientific activities, such as libraries and documentation and information centres, scientific publication, patents, science museums, etc. They also work in science management, planning and executive domains, through membership in various scientific councils and committees, or by working in departments involved in formulating joint scientific and technological programmes between Egypt and international agencies or foreign countries.

Egyptian women also competently participate in the work of local and international scientific conferences, at which they present numerous papers and studies. Women always make up a significant proportion of Egyptian delegations to various international scientific conferences.

Egyptian women in Trade Union, Political and International Activities
in the Field of Education

Egyptian women participate in trade union activities and play an effective role in this respect, despite the recency of their involvement in this domain. Women teachers have used trade union committees for discussion of their participation in public life, and their contribution to various social, political and cultural activities. They have also studied the question of harmonizing women's employment with their family responsibilities.

These studies have resulted in proposals and recommendations, most of which have been adopted, and legislation has been passed putting them into effect. Some examples are:

First: Achieving harmony between women's employment and their family duties

1. The establishment of day-care centres in various organizations, schools, co-operatives, etc. (This recommendation was adopted);
2. Codification of maternity leave for working women (Legislation was passed on this);
3. The possibility of unpaid leave for working women to care for their children (Legislation was passed on this);
4. Half-time employment at half pay for women;
5. The right of women to have both their pension and their husbands' pension, and the right of children to have the pensions of both parents (Legislation was passed on this);

6. The establishment of residences for women teachers posted away from their homes, to facilitate living close to their place of work, in order to install and settle teachers and organize the teaching and educational processes in an orderly manner (This was implemented).

Second: Participation in national work

1. A demand that female university graduates should perform the duty of national public service on an equal footing with male graduates who have the honour to perform military service (Legislation was passed on this).
2. A demand for courses on national consciousness for families of teachers seconded for employment abroad, in order to provide them with adequate information on their own country and on the countries to which they are posted (Such courses have been established).

Third: Participation in leadership responsibilities and occupation of higher positions in education

Women are increasingly occupying leadership positions with responsibility for formulating educational policies, planning and decision-making. Women have occupied the positions of Director-General and Under-Secretary of State at the Ministries of Education and Higher Education.

Fourth: Participation in providing services to Arab and African countries

Egyptian women have effectively participated in providing services to Arab and African countries and in assisting them with their educational renewal and the establishment of their educational systems. They have overseen the graduation of thousands of young women who later occupied leadership positions in their own countries.

Fifth: Women's participation in international conferences and meetings and in official assignments abroad

Egyptian women teachers have participated in the work of many international organizations, and have attended international conferences and meetings.

The role of Egyptian women in providing health care

Women first participated in the health services at the beginning of the last century, with the establishment of the School of Nursing. They did not enter the fields of medicine and pharmacy until close to the middle of the present century. The first woman doctor enrolled at the Faculty of Medicine at Fouad 1st University (now Cairo University) in 1939. The number of women doctors has steadily increased since then, particularly after the opening of Ibrahim Pacha University (now Ain Shams University). By 1984, female medical students represented about 35 per cent of the total as compared with not more than 10 per cent in the 1950s. There were 5,910 female and 13,268 male doctors under the Ministry of Health (30.8 per cent) (Directorate-General of Statistics, 1984).

The 11 faculties of medicine now graduate about 2,000 female doctors per year, approximately 90 per cent of whom join the Ministry of Health or its various institutions, while the remainder go to the universities and research centres.

Women doctors begin their assignments under the Ministry of Health at the end of their internship, as do their male counterparts. Women doctors spend one year at basic health care units (health service complexes, rural health care units, MCH centres, school health centres and health offices).

Women doctors may then apply for the post of resident doctor. Most of them choose specialization in paediatrics, gynaecology, internal medicine, laboratory work and blood transfusion services. Women doctors rarely seek specialization in surgery, osteology or urology. Similarly, they are not attracted to preventive medicine and public health, although there appears to have been a slight tendency towards the latter recently.

Many women doctors have reached a high rank under the Ministry. There are at present three with the rank of Under-Secretary of State, and dozens at the First Grade and Director-General levels.

Women and the pharmacy sector

Women recently began competing with men in the field of pharmacy, in which their number rapidly came to exceed that of their male colleagues. Women represented not more than 20 per cent of the total number of persons in this sector in the 1950s, but the figure rose sharply to 73.2 per cent in 1984. In that year, there were 1,832 women pharmacists and 671 males. The percentage of women has also greatly increased in the drugs sector, to 20,000, of whom about 5,000 have university degrees in fields such as pharmacy, veterinary science and science, in addition to others employed in administrative work and social service.

Egypt has seven faculties of pharmacy that graduate between them about 2,000 pharmacists a year, of whom about 1,200 are women. The majority of them are assigned to units under the Ministry of Health, and the remainder are employed at universities and research centres.

Women and dentistry

There are five faculties of dentistry in Egypt. They graduate a total of about 100 dentists per year, of whom about 55 per cent are women. Most of them are assigned to units under the Ministry of Health. In 1984, there were 1,469 women dentists in the health services sector, providing curative and preventive services at Ministry health units, including basic health care units, public and central hospitals and the units of the teaching institutes and hospitals authority.

In the various units under the Ministry and also in some of its authorities and companies there are women graduates of the faculties of veterinary medicine, science and engineering, particularly in the fields of laboratory work and blood transfusion, and in the Biologicals and Sera Authority.

Women also occupy numerous posts in administration, finance and secretarial work, in percentages approximating those of men and sometimes exceeding them.

Women and nursing

The nursing profession is almost exclusively female. The Ministry had established two schools for male nurses but one of them (at Helwan) has been closed, and the other, at Sohag, does not have many students. The Ministry of Health has at present close to 140 schools, which graduate a total of about 4,000 nurses per year, in addition to which there are schools of nursing attached to the university hospitals and the Higher Institute of Nursing, at four universities. There has been a most significant upsurge in the field of nursing in less than 20 years. Formerly, there were only a few schools for the training of senior nurses, nursing assistants, assistant midwives and health visitors, and one higher institute at Alexandria University that graduated a few dozen nursing supervisors a year. The latter go to universities, the armed forces and other countries, and only a very few are to be found in the employ of the Ministry of Health.

The 1970s witnessed a great revolution in nursing education. Over 12 schools were established in Cairo and the governorates. Three higher institutes of nursing were also established and a law was passed whereby all nursing supervisors are assigned to the Ministry of Health.

There was also a most significant development in the curricula of the nursing training courses. The nursing assistants and health visitors schools were abolished and were all converted to technical secondary schools of nursing. The following table indicates for comparative purposes the number of nursing staff in 1964 and 1984.

	Nursing supervisor	Nurse	Midwife	Assistant
1964	6	1 724	11 062	11 060
1984	1 553	45 531	19 530	19 530

Conclusion

Towards a better future

Egyptian women have distinguished themselves in all the domains they have entered, such as education among others. They have brought up young men and women who have shouldered Egypt's modern renaissance.

Egyptian women have also proved their ability and competence in diplomatic work, as representatives of Egypt in consulates and embassies and at international conferences, particularly those concerned with establishing international peace and security. They are also members of peace organizations, the Afro-Asian Solidarity Organization, and other organizations and have been elected to leadership positions.

In order to create a better future, Egypt is endeavouring to achieve the following:

- Compulsory education for all girls and boys in Egypt from six to 15 years of age (This is the basic education phase);
- Expansion of technical education and its development and improvement, in order to bring it into line with worldwide scientific and technological progress, and creation of stronger and closer ties between it, production establishments and the needs of society;
- Development of higher education curricula in order to bring them into line with the latest scientific achievements, and to make them fully relevant to practical applications in life, and to instil scientific thinking in youth and enable them to face and solve the problems of life;
- Emphasis on the importance of higher studies and research at universities, to link these with development policies and strategies, and to encourage and reward persons who undertake research aimed at solving the country's economic, social, health and population problems.

Development of Personal Law in Egypt

The much-discussed Personal Law No. 100 of 1985 was issued after the Supreme Constitutional Court ruled that the preceding one, Law No. 44 of 1979, was unconstitutional. Both laws are basically similar, except for a number of terms and expressions:

- The new law obliges a husband to pay his wife maintenance from the date of the valid contract even if she is affluent. Illness of the wife does not affect her entitlement to maintenance.
- The law also stipulates that if a husband refrains from paying for his wife's maintenance and persists in refraining therefrom, without declaring whether he is affluent or insolvent, he shall be immediately divorced. If he claims and proves inability, the court may grant him a grace period of not more than one month.
- The law stipulates that a wife has the right to ask for separation from her husband if she finds in him some ingrained defect which is incurable or curable only after a certain time. Experts are called upon in connection with such defects.
- The law further stipulates that the husband must indicate his marital status on the marriage contract. If he is already married, he must provide the name/s of his legal wife/wives and her/their address/es. The authenticating official must notify the wife/wives regarding the new marriage by registered letter with delivery return. A wife whose husband marries another woman may request a divorce if she suffers material or moral damage which would render continued cohabitation with him impossible, even if she had not made it a precondition that he would not marry another woman while legally married to her.
- The law also stipulates that a divorced man must provide his children from his divorced wife and their female guardian with an appropriate independent residence. If he does not do so during the legally prescribed waiting period during which a woman may not remarry after being widowed or divorced (iddat), they continue to occupy the marital dwelling without the divorced man for the duration of the period of legal custody. At the expiration of the period of legal custody, the divorced man may return to this dwelling with his children, if he has the legal right to assume custody.